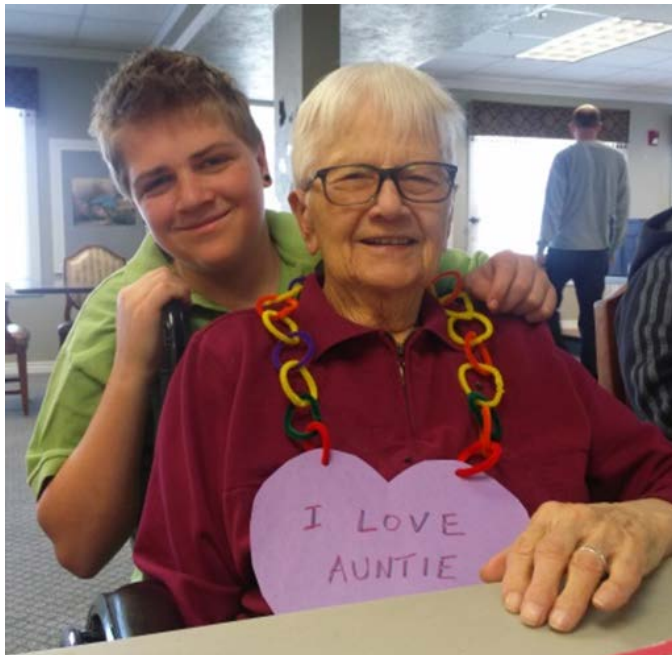


Bringing Generations Together



## 2015 Annual Report



### Mission Statement

*Bessie's Hope enhances the quality of life for nursing home/assisted-living elders and brings generations together in mutually rewarding relationships by honoring the human spirit and creating life-enriching volunteer opportunities for youth, families, individuals, community organizations and businesses.*

### A message from the Executive Director

Mother Theresa once said: "Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat."

Rather than being a food bank, I like to think of Bessie's Hope as being a "love bank." Our "shelves" are stocked with thousands of volunteers who share their love and caring with nursing home elders who hunger for unconditional love and attention. It is a sad fact that 60% of these elders receive no personal visits.

In 2015, a total of 2,339 Bessie's Hope volunteers logged 8,805 hours, visiting 1,451 nursing home residents, bringing with them smiles, hugs, conversation and most importantly love. The purpose of their visits is to fill these lonely residents' hearts with a sense of feeling acknowledged, important and remembered.

Thank you for your support in helping Bessie's Hope continue to eradicate poverty of the soul.

Our deepest thanks to those of you who supported Bessie's Hope in 2015 with their monetary gifts, time and talents. My wish is that we could give each of you a hug of gratitude.

With gratitude,  
Sharron Brandrup  
Executive Director

## **Bessie's Hope Programs**

### **Youth and Elders Program**



This program matches youth of all ages from area schools and other youth groups with “grandpartners” in elder care communities. The service-learning program includes reading, writing, communication and leadership skills.

“At-risk” youth and nursing home elders feel needed and valued, while they cultivate mutually rewarding

relationships. According to Dr Rossie Davis, a leading expert on the epidemic of bullying, Bessie's Hope impacts the issue of bullying, because the youth experience within themselves compassion and respect.

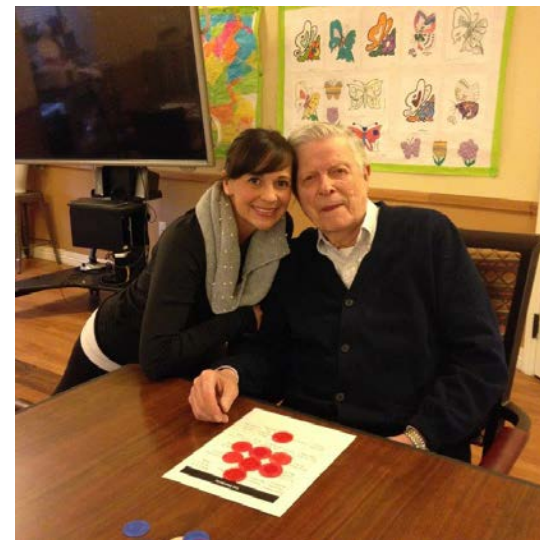
### **Community and Elders Program**



Groups from businesses and civic organizations experience a perfect blend of community service, team-building and the joy of giving. We provide training for the volunteers and facilitate group interaction with elders at a conveniently located nursing home or assisted living facility. Employees and group members share a heart-warming experience that builds a long-lasting team spirit. Often, a sense of family develops that is treasured by all. The positive feelings from connecting with others, are mutually beneficial for elders and volunteers alike.

### **Family and Elders Program**

We have many families and individuals who participate with us to “adopt” elders who have no other personal visitors. Here is the story of one of those volunteers.



“When most people start their Wednesday's they think, 'almost done for the week'. For me, Wednesday is my favorite day because I have the opportunity to spend 3 hours at the Crossings in Highlands Ranch. Volunteering with these residents at Brookdale has given me the opportunity to be with a very special community and my goal is just to put a little bit of happiness in their day.

Each week I am responsible for leading music bingo and the joy that comes from watching the patients sing their favorite songs from Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra and church hymns just warms my heart. Although I am there to be with them because some do not have someone to visit them, I know that I get more from visiting. I hear lovely stories of their parents, children and grand-children and to see the emotion when they speak is simply priceless. I am so thankful that I am a Family Elder volunteer with Bessie's Hope because for just a few hours a week I am helping a community that I enjoy working with and I feel value from the time I spend at the Crossings”...Gloria

## Dreams Can Still Come True Program

Our “Queen for a Day” is one of our most popular dreams. The “Queen” is treated to a day out at Aspen Grove Shopping Center. She receives the VIP treatment including lunch, a manicure, and shopping for FREE, clothes accessories, books etc.



## Entertainment Volunteers

Bessie’s Hope entertainment volunteers do more than just entertain. Like all of our volunteer programs, there is a focus on elder involvement and interaction. When there is music, there is often a sing-a-long and dancing together. Entertainment volunteers mingle with the elders before and after their performances, giving the elders a chance to ask them questions and express their feelings about the event. Entertainment volunteers come away from their visits having made new friends with the elders. Hugs are plentiful from the residents to thank the volunteers for enriching their lives.



**Pictured Above: Gail Hamilton, a former Ms Senior Colorado. Gail is totally blind & is pictured singing her beautiful aria from her braille music.**

## Bessie's Hope gratefully acknowledges our financial and in-kind contributors for 21

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### Community Organizations

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Columbine United Church  
KC Ladies Auxiliary at St Frances Cabrini  
Kiwanis Club of Castle Rock  
Lions Club of Denver  
Mile Hi Church of Religious Science  
Optimist Club  
Wheat Ridge  
Windsor Gardens  
Rotary Club  
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Seniors BluBook  
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The Villager Newspaper  
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 accidental omission of  
 any donor names**

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*Marge Utne*  
 Marie Torreano



## 12<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL intergenerational BOWL-A-Rama

Bowlers of all ages enjoy bowling together at this event.

## “Evening of Music & Magic”



Good food, wonderful company, spectacular entertainment, live and silent auctions add up to enjoyment for all. Pictured left to right are 2014 Community Angel award recipient Jamie Angelich, 2015 recipient LaFawn Biddle, and Adrienne Ruston-Fitzgibbons, the event chair.

Pictured are Bessie’s Hope Program Staff on stage with an elder and youth, who have been participating in our work in an area nursing home



## 2015 Program Statistics

### Program Participant Summary

Participants	# of Adult Volunteers	# of Youth Served through Volunteering	# of Elders Served
School/Youth Groups	272	1,588	
Business/Community Groups	306	28	
Family/Elder Program	55	19	
Administrative/Fund Raising	45	15	
Entertainers	10	1	
Total	688	1,651	1,451

## Notables:

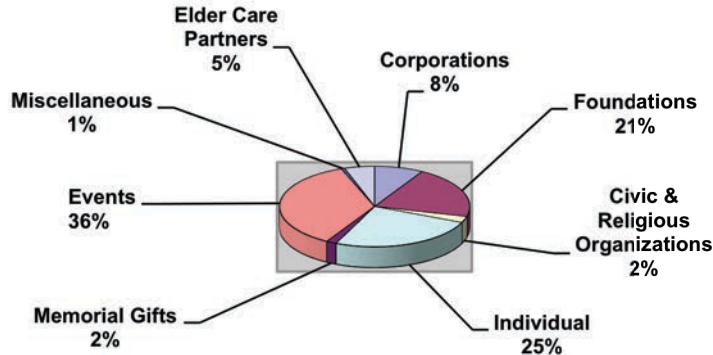
- Bessie’s Hope Volunteers logged more than **8,805 hours** of service during 2015.
- In 2015, Bessie’s Hope partnered with elder care facilities in counties in the Front Range area. This includes nursing homes, and assisted living communities.
- Our youth partnerships include private, charter, and public schools, as well as many organizations and residential treatment centers for at risk youth.
- At-risk youth benefit as much, as the elders, with whom they cultivate very significant relationships. These youth often make choices to turn their lives around. The ripple effect of these interactions is far-reaching.
- Individuals & families are helping Bessie’s Hope impact the horrific statistic - 60% of nursing home elders receive no personal visitors. The volunteers are surrogate families for tl elders.

Annual audit and tax forms were prepared  
by Wilson Downing Group, LLC

## 2015 Fiscal Year

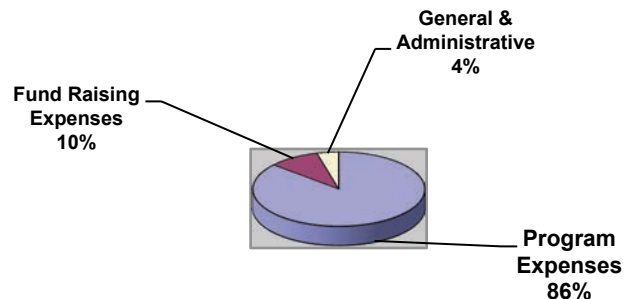
### Revenue Summary

#### 2015 Revenue



### Expense Summary

#### 2015 Expenses



#### PROCESS/EXPENSES:

Bessie's Hope staff provides the training of all volunteers; activity planning; coordination and facilitation of visits; feedback sessions with volunteers and elders; and "placement" for individuals and families who adopt elders. In addition, we provide Volunteer Manuals; Group Leader's Manuals; Sing-a-long CDs; Partnership Certificates for all participants; Activity supplies; Evaluation materials; and ongoing support to volunteers and elder care partners.

### Board of Directors

Miranda Brackett	<i>Procurement Analyst, Dept. of the Interior</i>
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Marge Utne	<i>Northwest Parkway</i>
Bryant Veazey	<i>CFO, Behre Dolbear Group, Inc</i>

### Staff

Darleen Stiny	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
Kimberly Barr	<i>Program Coordinator</i>
E Jane Bustamante	<i>Administrative Coordinator</i>

### Co-Founders

Sharron Brandrup	<i>Co-Founder, Executive Director</i>
Linda Holloway	<i>Co-Founder, Development Director</i>
Marge Utne	<i>Co-Founder, Volunteer</i>

**Bessie's Hope**  
**P.O. Box 12675**  
**Denver, CO 80212**

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